

Ron Asby North Cobb Post 304

General Meeting Minutes, February 21, 2019

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Ron Asby North Cobb American Legion Post 304 was called to order at 7:00pm on 21 February, 2019 in the Post Home by Commander Bob Kozora.

Roll call of officers was completed and a quorum was declared.
Recognition of Colors and the POW/MIA Table were completed.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the January 2019 meeting were published, and a motion to accept them was seconded and carried.

Committee/Officer Reports:

- **Finance Report:** Finance Officer Ed Jackson, and Commander Bob Kozora reported the total Income for January 2019 was \$20, 936.50, and the total expenses were \$16,584.54.
- **Membership:** Adjutant Hughes reported that we had approximately 450 paid-up members, new and renewed, at the Post level. National reporting was at 435. Goal is 510 members, so we are at 88% as of today. We need 60 more members to reach the goal, so if you have not renewed your 2019 dues yet, we need you to do it ASAP. Bob also apologized to members whose renewals were delayed during the processing and who received Past Due notices from National HQ. 100% of all renewals received at the post prior to this week have been fully processed at National HQ at this time.
- **Assembly Quarters:** Todd Wilson reported the Post had 1 hall rental in January and has 2 planned rental for March 2nd and March 30th.
- **Social Quarters:** Commander Kozora recognized John Dowdy and Woody Rhody for their efforts to increase food sales on Monday nights with the Monday Specials, which are booked out until late May. The Friday Fish Fry specials have also been successful. Wednesday Steak Night is now set up well with the use of the table numbers, and new help in the bar and grill. Bob Weatherford is grilling on alternate Wednesdays, but additional grillers are needed for the other weeks and as backups.
- **Programs:** Jack Kimmich reported on the following topics:
 - Casino Night, Saturday, March 2nd, is expected to be a successful fund raising event, although we have only sold 80+ tickets out of the expected 125. Tickets are available at the bar and through online purchases from our web page. There are also a number of tickets taken out by members to sell which need to be returned. Please consider purchasing tickets for this fun-filled evening event.
 - Oratorical Contest: Chuck Polk reported that our Post 304 winner, Aubrey McNeil, has now won the District 5 and Area 4 contests and is headed to Macon on March 2nd for the Department finals. This outstanding young woman is applying to Harvard University and has a LIFE GOAL OF BECOMING us Secretary of State one day. We wish her all the best in her life pursuits.

- **Service Officer**, Greg Vassillious reported that the homeless veteran, Alan, our Post has been helping is back sleeping on the street again as the money we originally raised has run out. His job in SC went away as his old car blew up on the road when he was on his way there. He has a new job at a local restaurant, but he needs transportation. This is indicative of the vicious circle these guys find themselves in. Need a job to afford housing and living expenses, need transportation to get to job, if they don't have an address they can't receive mail for the VA and file claims for benefits, etc. Local homeless organizations like Must Ministries do not have the capacity to hold all of the homeless in the area. Must be at their facilities by 2pm in the afternoon to have a chance at getting a bed for the night. If one is working, they can't get there in time.

As a result of the discussion in the Executive Committee Meeting, Commander Kozora announced a new Post 304 program called "One Vet at a Time." This program is aimed at working directly with a single homeless veteran at a time, to help find them work and other resources that will allow them to get back on their feet and self-sufficient again. This effort will take the combined energy and resources of our Post to be successful.

- **Auxiliary**: Linda Asby reported that they now have a membership of 47, with a goal of 58 for the year. Members are encouraged to discuss this with their spouses and other eligible candidates. The Auxiliary helped out serving food and beverages at all 3 Oratorical contests held at the Post in the last few weeks. They are sponsoring the quarterly blood drive event on Saturday March 9th, and announced they will be sponsoring our Oratorical Winner, Aubrey McNeil, by sending her to Girls State this summer.
- **SAL Commander**, Danny Townsend reported they now have 39 members, and have raised funds with a current bank balance of \$1853. They have worked on the storage shed on the patio to get it up off of the ground by the use of pallets. They have decided to fund a new cover for the new grill also. They are also partnering with the ALR to sponsor a St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 17th.
- **ALR**: Please see the attached notes from Tug Hale at the end of these minutes.
- **Color/Honor Guard**: Bob Hughes reported that the North Cobb Veterans Honor Guard has participated in 14 services since the 1st of January. Anyone who would like to consider joining this team should talk to Bob.

Old Business: No old business topics were discussed other than what has already been mentioned above.

New Business:

- Nominations for Post 304 Officers are now being accepted. There is a nomination sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Assembly Quarters. Nomination will be open through May. Please make sure you clear any nominations you wish to make with the candidate prior to making the nomination.
- Post 304 is partnering with the Woodstock Post in a celebration of the American Legion's 100th birthday on March 19th. A rededication of Post 304 under our new name of Ron Asby North Cobb Post 304 will also be done on that day. Stay tuned for additional information.

For the Good of the Legion:

- Adjutant Hughes announced the following items:
 - Dept. of GA Spring Conference to be held on March 22 - 24 in Duluth. Registration is required.
 - The annual Fishing for Freedom event is scheduled for April 27th. All posts are encourage to donate \$\$ as soon as possible, and the team is in need of volunteers to help on that day. Please see me if you are able to help.
 - Department of GA Centennial Convention to be held June 28 - 30th in Valdosta. Again, registration is required if you plan to attend.
 - The 5th District is seeking candidates for officer positions for the coming year.
- It was announced that Roger Hurricane Wilson would be playing at the Post this Friday evening, and will be recording a new CD. Proceeds from the sale of the CD will be donated back to Post 304.
- 5th Dist. Sr. Vice Ray Jacobs commented on the following:
 - Thanked our Post for focusing on homeless veterans and asked us to reach out to other Posts to see what plans and ideas they have in this area as well.
 - He also thanked the Post for our Quarterly Blood Drive.
 - He encouraged us to get the word out to other Posts on any and all of our successful programs and events. All Posts need to share their successes in order to make all more successful.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm by Commander Bob Kozora. The next general meeting will be at 1900 hours on March 21st.

Minutes submitted by: Adjutant Bob Hughes

See the ALR Report on next page →

Post 304 General Meeting

ALR Notes

21 February, 2019

Jan 26 Members
690 Miles
93 volunteer hours
6 events
\$1917 Bank account balance

Feb 26 Members 18 Legion 6 Aux 2 SAL
1030 Miles
153 volunteer hours
10 events
\$1917 Bank account balance

ALR has a WAA recognition bar tab that needs to be settled...

Still collecting 2019 ALR dues, not at 100%..

ALR collected \$125 from sale of 150 DOG ALR 50/50 tickets. Remainder to be turned in at Spring Conference 23 March.

16 Feb - Post 29 SAL breakfast 8 AM, now \$8 AYCE.

17 Feb - 5th District ALR Meeting at Post 29. Tug and Danny present.

2 Mar – Post 304 Casino Night. \$25 per person. No tickets at door.

17 Mar – St Patty's Day, ALR will sponsor a corned beef, cabbage and red potato plate. Proceeds to be split with the Post \$8 per plate. SAL invited to sell green beer.

23 Mar – ALR Spring Conference Meeting Duluth, Sonesta Hotel, \$5 registration

19 Apr – Tug will represent 5th District to attend collegiate ROTC ceremony.

4 May - 5th District Homecoming at Post 160. Usual social, dinner, meeting.

7 March – Next ALR meeting. (Back to 1st Thursday each month)